

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BONN 05420 01 OF 02 031748Z

51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 IO-14 ACDA-19 NIC-01 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11 DRC-01

/148 W

----- 068582

R 031732Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1536

INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION BERLIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 05420

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJECT: BRANDT CALLS FOR TIGHTENING UP IN SPD

SUMMARY: BRANDT HAS ISSUED WITH CONSIDERABLE FANFARE
A DECLARATION ON SPD POLICIES DESIGNED TO INCREASE
VOTERS' CONFIDENCE IN PARTY. STATEMENT ECHOES OLD
REFRAINS BUT COMES DOWN HARDER AGAINST PARTY'S LEFT
RADICALS THAN HAS RECENTLY BEEN CASE. CDU/CSU CALLS
DOCUMENT DEMONSTRATION OF HELPLESSNESS, AND VOTERS ARE
LIKELY TO LOOK FOR DEEDS NOT WORDS. END SUMMARY.

1. BRANDT'S STATEMENT, REPORTEDLY DRAFTED BY HIMSELF,
REWORKED WITH WEHNER, KUEHN, AND SCHMIDT, ENDORSED BY
THE PARTY'S EXECUTIVE BOARD, AND PRESENTED TO THE PRESS
APRIL 2, IS A REACTION TO THE SPD'S SERIOUS SETBACKS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BONN 05420 01 OF 02 031748Z

IN RECENT ELECTIONS AND DESIGNED TO LAUNCH THE PARTY

ON AN OFFENSIVE CAMPAIGN PRIOR TO LOWER SAXONY
ELECTIONS JUNE 9.

2. THE KEY WORD IS SOLIDARITY. THE PARTY MUST BURY
ITS INTERNAL DIFFERENCES, PRESENT AN IMAGE OF
DECISIVENESS, AND PERSUADE THE VOTERS THAT THEY ARE
RELATIVELY WELL OFF.

3. NO POLICY CHANGES ARE CALLED FOR. THE SPD
CONTINUES TO STAND ON THE GODESBERG PROGRAM, ITS 1972
CAMPAIGN PLATFORM AND THE 1973 GOVERNMENT DECLARATION.
IT STANDS FOR CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACY "AND ON THE SIDE
OF THOSE WHO ENFORCE THE LAWS." THE PARTY WILL PUSH
FOR REFORMS, TOGETHER WITH THE FDP, IN "A COALITION
WHICH WILL BE NECESSARY FOR A LONG TIME." BUT THE
PEOPLE MUST BE EDUCATED TO THE FACT THAT THEIR "EXPECTA-
TIONS ARE WAY BEYOND WHAT CAN BE REALIZED."

4. THE OPPOSITION, SAID BRANDT, HAS NO ALTERNATIVE
PROGRAM TO OFFER. THE CDU AND CSU ARE QUARRELING,
"MANY CIRCLES IN THE OPPOSITION ARE HOSTILE TO THE
WORKERS", AND THERE IS "A DANGER THAT THE OPPOSITION IS
DRIFTING INTO A NATIONALISTIC POSTURE." IT IS ALSO
PURSUING A RUTHLESS PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN IN ATTEMPT TO
PERSUADE PEOPLE THAT CONDITIONS IN FRG ARE WORSENING
AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ECONOMIC
FACTORS WHICH ARE ACTUALLY BEYOND FRG'S CONTROL.

5. PARTICIPATING IN THIS MISLEADING OF THE VOTERS,
SAID BRANDT, ARE "THOSE RADICAL GROUPS WHICH ARGUE AS
IF GERMAN WORKERS ARE SUFFERING FROM CONDITIONS OF
INHUMAN EXPLOITATION AS DURING THE FIRST INDUSTRIAL
REVOLUTION." IN OTHER POINTED REFERENCES TO THE JUSOS,
BRANDT EMPHASIZED: "THE PARTY IS NOT A DEBATING CLUB.
INTERNAL PARTY DISCUSSION MUST NOT BE PERMITTED TO
HAMPER THE PARTY'S ABILITY TO ACT. THERE CANNOT BE A
SO-CALLED DOUBLE STRATEGY AIMED AGAINST ONES OWN PARTY.
THE SPD MUST NOT REVERT TO 19TH CENTURY CLASS STRUGGLE
CONCEPTS."

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BONN 05420 01 OF 02 031748Z

6. BRANDT WARNED THAT "IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR THE
PARTY TO SEPARATE ITSELF FROM THOSE WHO ABANDON THE
GODESBERG PROGRAM AND WHO PRACTICE UNITY OF ACTION
WITH COMMUNISTS." ELABORATING FOR THE PRESS, HE SAID
HE IS "NOT CALLING FOR A WITCHHUNT", BUT THAT WHOEVER
(READ NRW JUSOS) CALLS THE GODESBERG PROGRAM "A COALITION
WITH BIG BUSINESS" DOES NOT BELONG IN THE SPD. HE
EXPLAINED THAT EXPULSION PROCEEDINGS ARE UP TO THE

DISCRETION OF THE LOCAL DISTRICTS.

7. IN CONCLUSION BRANDT ANNOUNCED THAT HE, WEHNER, SCHMIDT AND KUEHN WOULD MAKE PERSONAL APPEARANCES IN LOWER SAXONY AND WOULD ALSO MEET THIS SUMMER WITH LOCAL PARTY LEADERS THROUGHOUT FRG.

8. BIEDENKOPF, REACTING IMMEDIATELY FOR THE CDU, LABELLED THE SPD DECLARATION "A DOCUMENT OF HELPLESS-

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BONN 05420 02 OF 02 031744Z

51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 IO-14 ACDA-19 NIC-01 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11 DRC-01

/148 W

----- 068555

R 031732Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1537

INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION BERLIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 05420

NESS" AND A RETREAT INTO POLEMICS AND FALSE CHARGES AGAINST THE OPPOSITION.

9. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO VERY RELIABLE SOURCES, IT IS NOW VIRTUALLY CERTAIN THAT BRANDT WILL REMAIN

CHANCELLOR AND WILL NOT BECOME A CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENCY. WEHNER WILL REMAIN PARLIAMENTARY FLOOR LEADER, AND SCHMIDT WILL NOT BE GIVEN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY BUT WILL HAVE TO REMAIN WHERE HE IS. OUR SOURCES PREDICT SCHMIDT WILL THEREFORE MAKE HIS PEACE WITH BRANDT AND WEHNER, AND THE THREE CAN BE EXPECTED TO TAKE A MORE UNITED AND AGGRESSIVE STANCE IN THE COMING ELECTIONS.

10. THE TEN POINT DECLARATION COULD BE THE FIRST STEP IN THIS DIRECTION. BUT THE FACT THAT BRANDT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BONN 05420 02 OF 02 031744Z

FOUND IT NECESSARY TO MAKE SUCH A DECLARATION, AND EVEN TO INCLUDE A STATEMENT CLARIFYING THAT THE SPD "STANDS ON THE SIDE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT", REFLECTS WHAT THE PARTY APPARENTLY CONSIDERS THE DEPTH OF THE VOTERS' UNCERTAINTY AND APPREHENSION ABOUT THE SPD. THE VOTERS HAVE HEARD BRANDT'S STATEMENTS BEFORE, INCLUDING PREVIOUS THREATS TO EXPEL RADICALS FROM THE PARTY. THEY WILL BE WATCHING TO SEE IF THIS TIME, HIS DECLARATION OF INTENTIONS WILL BE TRANSLATED INTO ACTION.
HILLENBRAND

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY LINE, ELECTIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BONN05420
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740074-0845
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740472/aaaacnow.tel
Line Count: 197
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: AINS BUT COMES DOWN HARDER AGAINST P, ARTY'S LEFT
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 MAY 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <31 JUL 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRANDT CALLS FOR TIGHTENING UP IN SPD SUMMARY: BRANDT HAS ISSUED WITH CONSIDERABLE FANFARE
TAGS: PINT, GE, (BRANDT, WILLY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005